

development, and hazard mitigation. We must radically approach our agriculture and deforestation to stop making it worse.

I have introduced legislation that would make it illegal for products that were grown on illegally deforested land—palm oil, soy, and cocoa—from entering the stream of commerce, and having a border adjustment tax will make a big difference to stop people from exporting their carbon pollution.

Above all, we must mitigate climate change with an emphasis on equity, and we should harness the forces of nature to heal the land and reduce carbon. It is more effective, and it is cheaper. Instead of putting off much-needed policy changes, this will only delay the inevitable and make the adjustments more difficult as we reap the consequences of decades of inaction and denial.

Yes, it is going to take massive investments. But we are already making massive investments. The biggest infrastructure program now, the Federal Government, is paying to clean up after natural disasters. We should take some of that revenue stream and instead invest in mitigation and recovery that will make us stronger going forward.

Over the past months, I have worked to try and assemble my thoughts, talking to experts and thinking about what would make a difference. I have a little report I call "From Ruin to Resilience: Protecting Communities and Preventing Disaster." I look forward to discussing this with my colleagues to understand their issues and things that we can do together on a scale that this challenge demands.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to progress and discussion in Glasgow, but, more importantly, I look forward to progress and action here in Congress and in our communities. Our future and our children's future depend on it.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION MIGRANT PAYMENT PROPOSAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, my fellow Hoosier, I rise today to expose an outrageous scheme by the Biden administration to pay out hundreds of thousands of dollars to migrants who have violated our laws by illegally crossing our southern border.

Right now, there is already a national security, humanitarian, and public health crisis on the southern border. Every neighborhood in America, including mine in Indiana, is facing the devastating consequences of this crisis as illicit drugs come across the porous border and wreak havoc in our communities through more violence and drug overdoses.

Instead of protecting our country by securing the border, President Biden wants law-abiding American taxpayers to pay illegal migrants, whom people

know and we know broke the laws, a ridiculous sum of money. This decision will do nothing more than encourage human trafficking and drug smuggling.

The administration's border policies are downright inhumane and will continue to incentivize migrants to make the dangerous journey to reach our border.

This radical proposal should be abandoned immediately. It will not only exacerbate this crisis but it will also be put on the taxpayers' dime.

As inflation skyrockets under the Biden administration's Big Government giveaways, working families are struggling right now to pay for everyday necessities. Small businesses are struggling with supply chain and workforce shortages.

While Americans face these obstacles, President Biden has decided that rewarding people who break our laws is more important than fighting inflation, securing our border, or ensuring that we have the necessary energy to heat our homes this winter.

This is Big Government insanity at its worst, and I wholeheartedly reject it.

HOUSING IS A BASIC RIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of millions of individuals across our country who rely on public housing to keep a roof over their heads and for millions who need access to safe, stable, and affordable housing across our country.

Housing is a basic right and the foundation on which we build our lives and our families, and though it is clear that this is essential, far too many Americans struggle to keep a safe roof over their heads. In fact, homelessness is now at epidemic levels across our country. Particularly in our urban cities, families are homeless. Children, women, seniors, and veterans are homeless.

When we speak of the Build Back Better program and our agenda, we speak of introducing the importance of prioritizing the most at-risk communities. This is whom we are focusing on in the Build Back Better agenda, the most at-risk communities in our country. We speak of equitable access to the basic needs of the American people. That is what we speak about when we speak about Build Back Better.

We have included provisions that ensure children in need have access to free school lunches. We have worked to expand Medicare benefits for seniors. We have fought to include and boost the child tax credit, which will provide families with much-needed financial health, lifting children, Mr. Speaker, out of poverty. We have included historic provisions that will be better for our Nation for years to come.

But today, Mr. Speaker, I want to focus on the significant investments

the Build Back Better Act secures for public and affordable housing needs.

□ 1100

The Build Back Better Act will make the single largest, most comprehensive investment in affordable housing in our entire history. Over \$150 billion for housing is an enormous investment toward solving our pressing housing challenges and needs across the country.

Importantly, this bill includes billions to expand rental assistance, \$24 billion for new housing vouchers, and as we know, Mr. Speaker, many people are backed up on their rent. But in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, \$65 billion to address public housing repair backlog for 2.5 million residents, a significant resource for the National Housing Trust Fund to build and preserve thousands of homes for low-income families who are disproportionately people of color.

This is a major investment, an unprecedented investment in housing in my district, which has the largest stock in the New York City Housing Authority of public housing, and it has the highest number of rent-stabilized apartments, and the city of New York will benefit greatly.

Due to the COVID-19 global crisis, we are on the brink of a housing crisis, Mr. Speaker, an eviction tsunami, and up to 40 million people in America are at risk of being displaced. This crisis is here, and we want to act on it right now. It will take generations for our Nation to recover.

Plus, we are now experiencing a shortage of 7 million affordable homes for working-class and low-income families nationwide. For every 10 households in need, Mr. Speaker, there are fewer than four affordable, available homes. Not a single city, State, or district, has enough housing to meet these dire demands. And even when housing is available, it may not necessarily mean that housing is safe.

My district has the largest concentration of public housing and it has, as I said earlier, the highest number of rent-stabilized apartments in New York City. Yet, they lack the critical resources needed to create habitable living. This is a great investment, Mr. Speaker. The Build Back Better program is an immense investment in housing.

HONORING JOHN ONDRASIK OF FIVE FOR FIGHTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual I recently had the pleasure of having a conversation with, a singer-songwriter who, more importantly, is a tremendous supporter of our troops, John Ondrasik of Five for Fighting.

John started Five for Fighting in 1995, and shortly thereafter rose to